

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 -27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A shift lever mechanism comprising:

a housing including a retaining cup;

a lever having a longitudinal axis, said lever being at least partially disposed within said housing;

a pivoting member in operational communication with said lever being adapted to facilitate pivoting of said lever into a plurality positions; and

a lever position indication member indicating a disposal of said lever in at least one said positions, said lever position indication member being actuated by said pivoting member,

wherein the pivoting member includes a generally spherical ~~cylindrical~~ outer surface portion, the retaining cup includes a generally spherical ~~cylindrical~~ inner surface portion, the inner surface portion guides along at least a portion of the outer surface portion as the lever pivots generally about a pivot center relative to the housing, ~~and~~ wherein the lever position indication member selectively contacts a portion of the pivoting member that extends radially outward from the pivot center, and wherein the lever position indication member selectively intersects an axis of rotation of the lever.

29. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 28, wherein said lever position indication member includes a transducer member and an actuation member.

30. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 28, wherein said transducer member includes a switch.

31. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 30, wherein said switch includes a potentiometer.

32. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 29, wherein said transducer member includes an air valve.

33. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 29, wherein said actuation member includes a contact member, said contact member being in operational communication with a receiver member of said pivoting member.

34. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 33, wherein said contact member is disposed on said transducer member and said receiver member is disposed on said pivoting member.

35. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 29, wherein said transducer member is disposed on said housing.

36. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 29, wherein said transducer member is disposed along an axis extending radially outwards relative to a longitudinal axis of said housing.

37. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 36, wherein said transducer member is disposed generally perpendicular relative to said longitudinal axis of said housing.

38. (Previously presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 29, wherein at least part of said transducer member is displaceable relative to at least part of said pivoting member.

39. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 33, wherein said contact member is displaceable relative to said receiver member.

40. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 33, wherein said contact member is displaceable relative to said receiver member along an axis extending radially outwards relative to said pivoting member.

41. (Currently Amended) A shift lever mechanism comprising:

a housing;

a lever having a longitudinal axis, said lever being at least partially disposed within said housing;

a pivoting member in operational communication with said lever being adapted to facilitate pivoting of said lever into a plurality positions, wherein the pivoting member includes a generally spherical ~~cylindrical~~ outer surface portion having a detent formed therein, wherein the detent is defined, at least in part, by a detent surface; and

a resilient member providing resistance to displacement of said lever in at least one of said positions, wherein the resilient member contacts the detent surface as the resilient member is displaced to provide the resistance.

42. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 41, wherein said resilient member includes a detent.

43. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 42, wherein said detent is disposed on said pivoting member.

44. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 41, wherein said resilient member is disposed on said housing.

45. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 41, wherein said resilient member is disposed generally along an axis extending radially outwardly from said pivoting member.

46. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 42, wherein said resilient member is displaceable relative to said detent.

47. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 41, wherein said pivoting member includes a spherical element.

48. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 47, wherein said spherical element is disposed in a retaining cup and is operable to pivotally move therein.

49. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 48, wherein at least one of said spherical element and said retaining cup is formed from a plastic material.

50. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 48, wherein at least one of said spherical element and said retaining cup is formed from a metallic material.

51. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 47, wherein said spherical element is fixed to said lever thereby forming a pivot point on said lever.

52. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 47, wherein said spherical element is fixed on said lever by a retaining pin.

53. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 47, wherein said spherical element forms an integral part of said lever thereby forming a pivot point on said lever.

54. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 47, wherein said lever extends through said spherical element to form an arrangement generally coaxial therewith.

55. (Currently Amended) A shift lever mechanism comprising:
a housing having a housing longitudinal axis;

a lever having a first end and a second end defining a lever longitudinal axis, said lever being at least partially disposed within said housing;

a pivoting member in operational communication with said lever being adapted to facilitate pivoting of said lever into a plurality predetermined positions; and

a lever position indication member in selective operational communication with said lever, said lever position indication member indicating a disposal of said lever in at least one of said predetermined positions, said lever position indication member being actuated by a portion of said pivoting member that extends radially from a pivot center of the pivot member, wherein the lever position indication member selectively intersects an axis of rotation of the lever.

56. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 55, wherein said pivoting member is attached to said lever.

57. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 55, wherein said pivoting member is disposed in a retaining cup.

58. (Currently Amended) The shift lever mechanism of claim 57, wherein said pivoting member is in operational communication with said retaining cup, the pivoting member including a generally spherical ~~cylindrical~~ outer surface portion, the retaining cup including a generally spherical ~~cylindrical~~ inner surface portion, and wherein the inner surface portion guides along at least a portion of the outer surface portion as the lever pivots relative to the housing.

59. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 57, wherein said retaining cup is disposed in said housing.

60. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 55, wherein a resilient member provides resistance to displacement of said lever in at least one of said predetermined positions.

61. (Previously Presented) The shift lever mechanism of claim 60, wherein said lever position indication member and said resilient member are disposed on said pivoting member.